### Amusements and Alcetings Ca-Night. ACADEMY OF MUSIC.-At 2: "Postilion de Lonjumeau."

Wachiel.

BO 11'S THEATER.—At 2: "The Lily of Killarney." At S: "Behemian Girl."

BROOKLYS THEATER.—At 1:30 and 8: "The Flying were are required to preserve it. FIFTH AVENUE THEATER.—At 1:30 and 8: "Our Boys." LYCEUM THEATER.—At 1:30 and 8: "Ie Canard a Trois Becs."
TONY PASTOR'S NEW THEATER.—Variety Performance.
OLYMPIC THEATER.—At 2 and 8: Variety Performance.
PARK THEATER.—At 2 and 8: "Mighty Dollar."
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.—At 2 and 8.
THIRD AVENUE THEATER.—At 2 and 8: Variety Performance.
Formance.

formance.
THEATER COMPUTE - At 2 and 8; Variety Performance.
UNION STEAME THEATER. - At 1:30 and 8; "Led Astray."
WALLACK'S THEATER. - At 1:30 and 8; "Overland

AMERICAN INSTITUTE - Exhibition. BERTHOLOTTO'S EDUCATED FLEAS. - 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. GILMORE'S GARDEN.—Concert.
HOWES & CUSHING'S CINCUS.—At 2 and 8.
KURTE'S AUT GALLERY.—Exhibition of Paintings.
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.—Paintings, Statuary.

PLYMOUTH CHURCE.—At 4: Organ Concert. STEINWAY HALL.—At 1:30: Concert. White-Cervantes.

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#### Business Notices.

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# New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1875.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN. - Nercuisos & Co. of London failed; liabilities \$250,000. American calicoes were imported in Manchester. —— There was tempestu-ous weather in England. —— The estimates in the revenue of the German Empire for 1876 show a deficit of \$3,750,000. The French Council of Ministers decided not to prosecute M. Rouher.

DOMESTIC.-The Covernor's Canal Commission made their eighth report, implicating Controller Hopkins, Appraiser Davis, and Auditor Thayer in gross exactions from State elaimants. = watch factory at Precport, Ill., burned, loss \$150,-000. A \$2,000 shortage occurred in the Treas-Gov. Allen will speak in Pennsylvania. Charges were made as to a ring of lawyers in the Alabama Claims Court. Ben. Boyd, the most notorious veteran counterfeiter in the country, was captured after an eight-mile chase on horse-

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-A Republican ratification meeting was held at the Cooper Union, with addresses by Senator Conkling and Salem H. Wales. The Assembly Committee on Crime investigated the District-Attorney's office, === The Senate Investigating Committee made inquiries in regard to the water supply. \_\_\_ Judge Neilson ordered entries of nolle prosequi to be made to the libel indictments against Theodore Tilton and Francis D. Moulton. —— The preparations for the revival labors of Moody and Sankey in Brooklyn were completed. = Gold 11618, 11558, 11558. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, 86 410 cents.

THE WEATHER .- The Government report predicts clear or partly cloudy and warm weather. this city yesterday the day was mild, hazy, and cloudless; thermometer, 55°, 63°, 56°.

The last nail in the coffin of the Pennsylvania Democrats. The report that Gov. Allen is to take the stump for Pershing and the Erie platform is confirmed.

A vigorous effort seems to be making to "bull" lard, and suggestions of a corner in that useful article are freely offered. As they come from the West, where the hog product has been large, these rumors may well be received with caution.

No comfort is afforded by the courts to the belligerent Staten Islanders who resorted to illegal measures in the support of a competing three days which the correspondence consumed, ferry. The sentence which condemns Mr. the Baxter Company, being in sore pecuniary Pendleton, the President of the Staten Island straits, had been obliged to sell their claim and North Shore Ferry Companies, to thirty at a discount of ten per cent to "a days' imprisonment in Ludlow Street Jail, seems remarkably severe. He is convicted, on gentleman in Troy be but Mr. Francis S.

law, of a contempt of court for giving the facilities of his companies' ferry-slips to the competing steamboat. A court must be anxious concerning its dignity when such strong meas-

The latest presentation of that noble figure in our local politics known as ex-Police Commissioner Hugh Gardner was before the Committee on Crime yesterday in the attitude of sapplicating with the District-Attorney on behaif of a burglar in consideration of what he (the burglar) " had done for the party!"

The argument of Mr. Evarts in the Claffin case yesterday was a powerful effort which deserved faller report than we have room to give it. His purpose seemed to be to show that the indictment against Mr. Claffin's firm was so loosely drawn that, much as his clients desired to go to trial on the merits of their case, his lawyers could not consent to it.

Judge Neilson has consented to the application of District-Attorney Britton and ordered the criminal indictments against Francis D. Moulton and Theodore Tilton to be quashed. No one knows better than Judge Neilson the folly and indecency of reviving that uzly scandal, and his action will be commended by all even half-way familiar with the case.

It has been well known for a long time that the old squad of Police Detectives protected more rogues than they arrested. Judging from the report of Commissioner Howe, as submitted to the Committee on Crime yesterday, of the amounts of recovered property they had turned over to the city, it may be concluded also that some, at least, of them kept more than they squandered on the city.

The appearance of American cotton goods in Manchester is justly regarded as "significant," and must amaze the cotton spinners accustomed to receive only the raw material from this country. The gradual decline in the cost of production renders this possible, and will in time enable us to compete successfully with British fabrics in the Chinese, South American, and other markets

District-Attorney Phelps's former assistant, when before the Committee on Crime yesterday, declined to say what "Custom-house politicians" had arranged with the District-"he worked for the party." Does not Mr.

In the suit against the Ocean National Bank, testimony thus far brought ferward tends toward proving negligence but not criminal intent on the part of its officers. They deemed the safe so secure against the operations of burglars that a night watchman was unnecessary. Undoubtedly this was a serious error of judgment; but the proof of that alone will not justify the grave charge of connivance in the robbery which the prosecution has made against the former president.

The coming of Messrs. Moody and Sankey is preceded in this city and vicinity by a marked awakening of religious interest in many churches of different denominations. The movement extends throughout this and neighboring cities, and takes the form of re- of the prophecy. Three considerable expedivival meetings. A cordial sympathy with the tions for the purpose of settling New-Guinea work to be begun to-morrow in Breoklyn is already manifested by elergymen of various the occasion of a large and influential town creeds. That heartiness of cooperation which during the meetings of the Evangelical Alliance overwhelmed and kept out of sight all minor differences of faith, will probably again

to find themselves disfranchised must remember that this is the last day. Last year a conspicuous candidate, after a hot canvass, found himself on election day deprived of the privilege of voting for himself. He had forgotten to register. Unless we do better to-day he may find a great many discusses with grave concern the probable consympathizers, ten days hence.

A month or two ago the great trunk railroad hnes to the West brought their ruinous war to a close by a temporary agreement to advance the rates of freight and passenger traffic. This truce has now been made a permanent treaty, and as a first result the rates have again been advanced. The monopoly promises, through irresponsible agents, that it will not make itself still more odious to the public by a further advance in a month or the people than the promise. At any rate it is some satisfaction to believe that the monopoly The is shrewd, and will not by high rates kill the goose that lays its golden eggs.

A NEW PHASE OF THE CANAL INVES-

TIGATION. If the members of the Canal Board believed that the Seventh Report of the Investi-

gating Commission betrayed a prejudice against some of the officers and employés of the State, we wonder what they will think of the Eighth Report, made public in our columns this morning. The Commission leaves the contractors and engineers for a while, and deals with the conduct of a high officer of State in whose fidelity the people have fully trusted. There have been rumors for some time of improper transactions at the Controller's office in connection with the award to the Baxter Steam Canal Boat Company, but the high reputation of Mr. Hopkins has hitherto forbidden us to give them serious consideration. The mortifying disclosures now made, however, cannot be overlooked. The Legislature awarded \$35,000 to William Baxter for his adaptation of steam to canal transportation. but by an oversight the sum was not included in the Appropriation bill. The Controller accordingly refused to pay the money until he had obtained the opinion of the Attorney-General on the case, but when he was urged to get the opinion, he only promised and procrastinated. At last it was suggested to Mr. Van Dyck, the assignee of Baxter, that by paying \$1,000 to Thaddeus C. Davis he could secure what was wanted. The bargain was made. Davis immediately obtained from the Controller a letter to the Attorney-General, and took it to him at Syracuse. The Attorney-General immediately answered, approving the claim. But during the two or "gentleman in Troy," and who should the

of one of the public creditors. Now who recommended Van Dyck to employ Davis at an expense of \$1,000 f Mr. Van Dyck testifies that it was none other than Controller Hopkins, and the Controller is unable to give an explicit contradiction to this damaging statement, though his "impression" is that Van Dyck suggested the name of Davis himself. But this is not all; for it appears that the Attorney-General had already told the Controller that the claim was good, and the Deputy Attorney-General had given the Controller the same opinion, and Mr. Thayer knew that the opinion had been given when he shaved the claim, and all these officers had talked over the embarrassments of Mr. Baxter and the justice of his demand. There was really no doubt whatever about the legality of the payment, but the machinery of the Controller's department could not be set in motion until somebody had been roundly paid. The Commission tells the story of another

1874, Isaac V. Baker, President of the New-York and Canada Railroad, applied to Controller Hopkins for the payment of a grant of \$70,000 voted the Company by the Legislature. Mr. Hopkins refused to do anything without the opinion of the Attorney-General, and refused also to ask for the opinion of the Attorney-General. As that officer of course does not give opinions to claimants against the State, the double refusal threatened to create embarrassment; but somebody-" Mr. Baker is not sure whether it was the "Controller or one of his companions"suggested telegraphing for Thaddeus C. Davis to come on from Buffalo and fix things. The Controller sent the relegram-and all this time Attorney-General Pratt was just up stairs. Well, Davis came; the Controller wrote a letter to the Attorney-General, asking his opinion; Davis took the letter and followed Gen. Pratt home to Syracuse: a favorable opinion was immediately indorsed upon it; Mr. Baker met Davis in the Controller's office, got his money and paid \$1,000 for the service right there at Mr. Hopkins's desk, and Mr. Hopkins was appealed to by both parties to say what the charge ought to be.

Comment upon these two disgraceful affairs that Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Thayer, and Mr. Pratt Attorney that Michael Norton, Ring thief, are all connected with the Canal Board "should not be brought to trial on condition which professes to be trying delinquent engineers, and that the Board is understood to be Phelps owe it to himself in this juncture to disgusted at the violent and partisan spirit in explain who it was he thus treated with, and which the Governor's Commission discharges its duties.

NEW-GUINEA TO BE CIVILIZED.

While the British find the limits of their influence in Asia clearly defined by Russian advances, they seem likely, in compensation for this, to extend in and below the tropics over nearly all the islands of the sea. When the Fiji islanders were seeking a protectorate, and our own Government was dallying with the speculation, the prophecy was made in Germany that the acceptance would prove an entering wedge to the occupation of uncivilized lands in those distant seas, and that the next in order would be New-Guinea. England accepted the Fiji protectorate, and all the trouble that has come with that rash experiment seems not to hinder the fulfillment have been announced. One of these has been reserring held at Sydney, N. S. W., and it was there stated that many emigrants with their families were engaged for the expedition. They hope to open a trade with Australian ports for the products of New-Gainea, among which are BROOKLYN—No. 323 Washington-st., next door to the Post-Office. — EASTERN DISTRICT, BROOKLYN, No. 87 Broadway.
PHILADELPHIA—No. 112 South Sixth-st.
WASHINGTON—No. 515 Fourteenth-st.
LONDON—No. 84 Fleet-st., E. C.
PARIS—No. 15 Rue de la Paix.
Advertisements and subscriptions are received at publisher's rates, and single copies of The Tribunz may always be obtained at all the above offices.

Be displayed.

Registration was more general yesterday; but we are still nearly four thousand behind last year's record at this stage of the work. Unless a great advance is made to-day, this year's vote must fall behind that of twelve months ago. Readers who do not want to find themselves disfranchised must the palates of epicurean Chinese.

The expeditions starting from Australia have their support at least in part in England, and the promoters of the scheme find place for its advocacy in British journals. It has assumed so serious an aspect that The London Times sequences. There is no mention of international complications as likely to ensue. It may be doubted whether any civilized power has a firm right to the territory of New-Guinea. In 1828 Holland took nominal possession at the south-western coast of the island and founded a colony there, at Triton Bay. But this colony was soon afterward withdrawn, and if any right to the territory of New-Guinea is invested still in the Dutch Government on account of discovery, it can at most only two. But-the fulfillment will better satisfy apply to the western portion of the island. The proposed settlements of the English are destined for the eastern coast, which was explored very fully in an expedition of the Basilisk under Capt. Moresby in 1873. There is plenty of room on the island, as it is more than one-third larger than France, How little is popularly known of it was recently illustrated by the success of a book describing sporting and other adventures in New-Guinea. It ran the gauntlet of the reviews and obtained fair commendation as a volume of travel. Eventually, however, a naturalist read the book, and announced that it was entirely fabulous, as most of the plants and animals

described do not exist upon the island. We need not plunge headlong into regret that the United States are distanced in the occupancy of New-Guinea. The natives are a kindly race, as genial and pleasant savages, one discoverer says, as could well be met. "At the same time," he remarks, "I have no "doubt they do a little cannibalism among "themselves." They have a way of using human skulls and vertebrae as ornamental articles, the latter adorning the women, who were at first supposed to be clad in a fine, transparent lace, which subsequent investigation revealed as only tattooing. These natives supposed their English visitors were painted, and, being permitted, scrubbed some of the British skin vigorously, expecting to rab off its whiteness. A solemn rite, by which they ratified their friendship with the white people, consisted in bringing a dog on the deck of the vessel and knocking his brains out. On one occasion a party of explorers on shore, being very hungry, proposed to share her meal with the matron of a native household; but on seeing a lizard, four feet long, in the pot, they lost their appetites. The climate is equable, but mosquitoes thicken the air at noon-day. Missionaries of both sexes have been left on the island, but they die off rapidly with fever, notwithstanding the virtues of the native practice in such diseases, which consists in bleeding from the forehead and before and the series that was to come after, ing at work. In litting their shovels, scratching the backbone with a flint. If all

who thus made \$3,500 out of the necessities have been correctly enumerated, it seems poverty to display. But quartz has been found; and it is believed, though not known, that the quartz contains gold. Therein is probably the bottom secret in the project of settling New-Guinea.

THE HARD TIMES. It is a question which many people are asking themselves. Why does this severe depression in business continue to afflict the country? At the outset, before attempting to answer the question, two things must be considered. In the first place it is desirable to know what is the average healthy condition not only of business but of the entire population. When from any cause prices of things in general are rapidly rising the entire business community and the holders of property of all kinds fancy they are growing rich. They fashion their expenditures and transactions of every kind according to their supcase almost precisely similar. In December, posed increased wealth. Hence there is a strong demand for labor, and prosperity appears to be universally diffused. But this prosperity is in great part imaginary. It does not represent the average state of things. From its very nature it cannot last. Calling every thing in the country worth twice as many dollars as it used to be adds to the wealth of no one. But fluctuations in the money value of property and goods are attended with this inconvenience, that those who are debtors or creditors and have promised to pay or to receive fixed sums of money are liable to serious changes in their worldly estate.

A great many things affect prices besides

the quantity of money which happens to be in existence. Moreover in individual cases it is generally a change in the value of some particular thing which adds to the load of the debtor or relieves him. For example, a man borrows money and invests in real estate. The price of real estate is then what concerns that article and he is one of those who buy when the price is at the very highest, he is ruined, and he has no one but himself to blame. In the same way those who at the last moment enter into the manufacturing business run the risk of the market's becoming glutted, by which all in the business is entirely superfluous; but we may remark are deprived for a time of their usual profits, even if they are lucky enough to escape serious losses. In coming to an opinion as to the condition of the whole population of the United States we must take all articles into the account. We find one class of articles, of immense importance, which has not within the last three years-this takes us back to a year before the panie-sustained any serious fall. We refer to wheat, corn, rye, oats, and barley. By comparing the wholesale prices of these articles at Milwaukee in the first week of October we find that No. 2 wheat was quoted at \$1 1312 per bushel in 1872, \$1 12 in 1873, 9314 cents in 1874, and \$1 0912 been renominated in all-nearly one-half of 1875. Corn was worth 34 cents bushel in 1872, 45 cents in 1873, 8112 cents in 1874, and 58 cents in 1875. Oats were 25 cents a bushel in 1872, 331e cents in 1873, 49 cents in 1874, and 34 cents in 1875. Rye was 54 cents a bushel in 1872, 674 cents in 1873, 8742 cents in 1874, ficient in. Thomas Coleman, in the XIIth, is and 73 cents in 1875. Barley was 6612 cents a bushel in 1872, \$1 40 in 1873, \$1 10 in 1874, and \$1 0712 in 1875. Comparing the prices of 1872 with those of 1875, and considering that the harvest of 1875, taking all

products together, is a good one, and remembering that dry goods, groceries, labor, and many other things which the farmer has to buy, are cheaper than they were three years ago, have the farmers at this time any good reason for thinking that they are worse off than they were in 1872 f From this brief mention of prominent facts, and from the further circumstances mentioned in our columns a day or two ago, that the aggregate quantities of tea, coffee, and sugar imported into the United at all by others, while by large numbers the

the previous rise, leaving them worth as much as ever in real value. The hard times have now lasted two full or may not have been reached. There is no infallible test. Former experience teaches that the process of recovery is not a rapid one, but in the nature of things its commencement cannot be long delayed. England is the country which most nearly resembles the United States in its methods of business and its banking system. In England during the last ninety years there have been seven or eight periods of strongly marked depreasion in business, such as that through which we are passing. In no case, however, has the extreme inaction lasted three full years. By the end of the third year the exports and imports, the revenues of the Government, and the rate of interest have invariably begun to mark some improvement. All the accepted authorities on the subject of commercial crises have treated them as reactions following an excess of speculation. Speculation carries the prices of houses and lots, goods, bonds, railroad stocks or other commodities, to a level

at which they cannot be sustained, and the resulting fall is in proportion to the extent of the previous speculations and the abuses of credit by which they have been attended. An abuse of credit takes place where, for instance, a farmer parts with his grain for a worthless railroad mortgage, or other security, or where he is the victim of bad debts. Increasing the quantity of money, as the inflationists would do if they could, would not revive confidence, but have the opposite effect. Unless done on a scale to fill the minds of sensible men with apprehensions of repudiation, it is not likely that it would immediately raise the price of any article, while every prudent creditor would wish to be paid as soon as possible. Our currency and finances are not in the most satisfactory state, but since we cannot have practical measures for their improvement, the next best thing is to let them alone. If prices are not now rising it certainly is not for lack of money in New-York and other great cities to

THE NEW SENATE.

buy what is offered in the market.

The Democrats started a long way ahead in the campaign in this State, and every week has served to increase their lead rather than to lessen it. The Republicans knew this so their State ticket the day it was nominated. The Legislature became the point of attack, more in hope of carrying the upper house again ders was added to the series that had gone

of the lobby were renominated by means of strange that the natives have little except the money they had carried away from the capital.

John H. Selkreg was renominated in the

XXIVth District, and has not lacked the eager

support of the party press as against so honor-

able a man as George W. Schuyler of Tomp-

kins. Mr. Selkreg has all the resources of a

man who has carefully covered his footprints,

and is an adept in all the arts of the hypo-

crite who keeps up the pretense of virtue,

even in the presence of the men who have

bought him. It will only be by hard work that Mr. Selkreg's majority of 1,500 can be overcome. Next comes William B. Woodin, renominated in the XXVth District with the help of Republicans who opposed him two years ago, but have now been bribed into silence with political gifts. This legislative lackey of William M. Tweed has long been the Republican leader in the Senate, and his reelection is perhaps a party necessity. To the efforts of his Democratic opponent, Charles F. Durston, and the Prohibitionist candidate, Henry M. Clark, his constituents may yet owe their redemption from great disgrace. The last of the Tweed Senators can hardly claim to be the first of reformers. In the XXXIId District Commadore P. Vedder, one of the boldest of Albany "strikers," has been nominated, and has remained in the field in spite of the entreaties of the party press that he should withdraw. His Liberal opponent, Judson W. Breed, is in every way worthy of success, and his defeat, though there is a majority of 2,500 against him, would be a lasting reproach to his district. In Albany, Hamilton Harris, a legislative trickster and the alleged briber of Callicot in 1863, has been nominated. Democratic divisions here have seemed likely to render the election of a Republican possible, but these are apparently lessening, and indications point to the retirement of Mr. McElwain from the field and the consequent reelection of Senator Dayton, who has made a fair record. him. If there has been over-speculation in From the 11d District, in Brooklyn, William Richardson has been nominated, though for as httle good reason probably as Senator John C. Jacobs, whom the Democrats have renominated in the IIId. Senator Willard Wagner, renominated in the XVth, has faults mostly of a negative kind. He is constantly absent from his post, and wholly indifferent to the public interests. He represents nothing but himself and the railroad interests with which he is connected. His Democratic opponent, Geo. T. Benedict, made an excellent record in the last Assembly as a conscientious member, who not only knew his duty but did it. The remaining Republican renominations are unobjectionable, though not strong. James W. Booth of the Vth District, Henry C. Connelly of the XIVth, Franklin W. Tobey of the XVIth, Dan. H. Cole of the XXIXth and Abijah J. Wellman of the XXXth, have all made good records, and can fairly claim the commendation of their constituents. Eight Republican Senators have their present representation in the upper house. Among the new names there are several not without considerable strength. B. Platt Carpenter, nominated in the XIth District, has qualifications which his Democratic competitor, James Mackin, is unmistakably dea citizen of unblemished reputation. Indeed, the City of Troy is to be congratulated on her candidates. Ex-Senator James Gibson, the Democratic nominee, helped to lead the Canal Reform movement of 1867 that ended so disastrously for its Republican participants. Either of these men will dignify the seat he fills. Theodore S. Sayre in the XIXth seems to be as far beyond criticism as his opponent, Josiah K. Brown. Dennis McCarthy in the XXIId has had a long and varied experience in public life, and Sherman S. Rogers in the XXXIst is a lawyer of excellent ability and high standing. The Democratic list embraces fewer vulnerable names, and probably an equal number of

States show no falling off, we judge that the men of integrity and fitness. Only one of hard times, though a severe visitation on cer- them, Stephen H. Hammond, has been the it. But in the face of all difficulties it has been grave, and his defense is so damning, that he over which they grieve is just as fictitious as for his opponent, Edwin Hicks, John Fox coming accustomed to consider the and John C. Jacobs are not men whom THE TELBENE likes to see in the Senate; but so long as there are ignorant and knavish years. The extreme point of depression may classes in our great cities, the Foxes and the Jacobses must be expected to rise to the surface. The nominees of Tammany Hall show a marked improvement, however. It is a great step in advance when that organization promotes an honest Assemblyman like James Daly to the upper house, and when gentlemen of the private station of James W. Gerard and Everett P. Wheeler enter public life under its auspices. Among the nominees in the interior there are several former veterans in public life whom the Reform revival has called again to the front. Daniel B. St. John in the Xth, James Starbuck in the XVIIIth, and William C. Lamont in the XXIIId belong to the days and bring with them the memories of the Constitutional Convention of '46. A newer recruit is John R. Kennaday of the Hd (Brooklyn) District, whose record inside of the Assembly is as good as that of his opponent outside of it is bad. The fusion of the larger part of the Liberal organization with the Democratic would seem to be a fair inference from the fact that six of the Democratic candidates were Greeley Republicans in 1872.

There never was a time when prophecy was so useless as now. The general anticipation is of a State Government, Democratic both in its legislative and executive branches. The proportions of their victory, however, and its ultimate effects, cannot be predicted when party lines are obliterated, and honest men are rallying against thieves.

THE CITY'S LABORERS. The testimony brought before the Committee

of the Senate that is investigating our municipal affairs, serves rather to verify facts well known to our citizens than to disclose novelties. That the work performed by the laborers employed on city improvements is slow, lazy and expensive, has become an everyday observation of our tax-payers. The contrast was very strikingly shown between such performance and genuine work, when the labor on the Fourth Avenue improvement was going on simultaneously with that of laying street pipes in the vicinity. The men at work for the railroad kept steadily at their labor. The pick and shovel were handled with a will. The excavation deepened and lengthened, the stone and brick for the tunnel were laid, in all the daywell that they may be said to have abandoned light hours, without cessation. The finished work actually seemed to grow before the eyes of the spectator. But where the city's laborers were, close by, there was a scene of a than of overturning the present majority in totally different character. It looked more like the lower. And here another series of blun- the show of labor that is sometimes performed on the stage, or like grown-up children play-The times demanded new men and better each with about enough dirt on the blade to what looks like a technical construction of the Thayer, the Auditor of the Canal Department, the products that are to be had on the island men. Instead, some of the grimiest veterans cover it, in swinging the pick, in trundling a

pallful on a wheelbarrow, the action was so deliberate that it seemed as if timed to slow music. One spectator described it as like the swing of a two-minute pendulum. At frequent intervals there would be a complete stoppage; half a dozen or more of the "laborers" would saunter off together to the water pail; every time a train passed the whole gang ceased their exertions and turned to look at it; and at noon and at 5 o'clock they quirted their work with a punctuality that was often even ahead of time. A sight that would have been Indicrous if it were not so sad, was the operation of pumping water where it had settled in a gully. The pump needed a long, fast stroke; with the lazy movements of the men not one stroke in half a dozen caught the water or lifted it to the spout. This was not an exceptional case. Just such

work-if it can be so called-may be seen daily in new street: and up-town boulevards. It is the consummate flower of 'aziness. Citizens who have watched it year by year say that it now surpasses everything they have seen in the art-for it is an art that new laborers do not at once acquire-of dawdling. Perhaps it has reached its limit of development; indeed any more ridiculous pretense of labor is scarcely conceivable. Gen. Porter, testifying on the subject, seems to regard this as an inevitable result where day labor is employed. Its advantage is that better work is ultimately done than under the contract system, the materials used being always more carefully selected. But it may be doubted whether the gain thus secured compensates for the evident extravagance of the present system. He suggests that the smaller and less important works be done by contract; but he sees no help in the matter as to the greater ones. The day-labor system serves political purposes more readily than the contract plan; the laborers have votes; there are scores of men employed in overseeing their work, or pretending to, in keeping records, and the like. Hence the labor of our city has become a part of the political machine. It is by no means certain that smashing the machine would mend matters. It is, however, only too evident that things are not in a way to better themselves. There is no prospect of improvement under the daylabor system. There is just a bare possibility that honest work might sometimes be got by contract. A choice of evils is the best that our municipal institutions offer.

Mr. Ira Shafer's "explanation" to Judge Lawrence of an occurrence which has given Mr. Shafer himself great pain will be read by the legal profossion and citizens generally with profound emotion. In an unguarded moment Mr. Shafer was "betrayed into putting his thoughts into language" to such an extent that he spoke of Judge Davis in open court as a perfectly infamous judge" and Judge Daniels as "a mere spaniel." It must be admitted, even by Mr. Shafer's warmest admirers, that this was somewhat exceeding the limits of forensic debate, and we were not surprised when Judge Lawrence announced the other day that he should feel bound to report "the occurrence" to the General Term. Mr. Shafer bas now voluntarily come forward and said-we are not quife clear what he has said, except that he is sorry it happened, as indeed he very well may be, and that he is not actuated by fear, since "the meaning of that word personally he does not understand." We are assured upon the highest authority-that of Mr. Shafer himself-that this eminent advocate's demeanor toward the bench has been uniformly courteous, a combination we suppose of the courage of a lion with the tenderest consideration of others' weakness; and in short, considering the heroism of his character and the elegant grace of his manners, it is very plain that the tortures he has suffered during the past week must have been excruciating beyond all conception.

The fast mail train has had the usual experience most good things suffer while they are new, So much was expected of it that it was overloaded with work at the outset, and every trivial lapse was exaggerated into an atter breakdown. Then it had for critics a multitude of newspapers which unwisely considered it hostile to their interests, and

watched for every chance to say an unkind word of

tain classes of the population, are scarcely felt subject of definite charges, but these are so gradually getting into excellent working order. We hear fewer and fewer complaints every day from fall in the money prices of their possessions deserves to be buried beneath the ballots cast subscribers, and the interior is rapidly beluxury of New-York morning papers as a present necessity. There is a hope that the operations of the system may be rapidly extended southward as far as Washington, and there can be little doubt that, if our impatient people will only wait for this germ to develop itself, we shall soon have a general quickening of not less than twenty-five per ent in the mail service between distant important points everywhere throughout the country.

> Battle is to be fairly joined between John Morrissey and John Kelly in the IVth District. Morrissey has been finally driven into the ring. His friends boast that his making the fight will be worth five thousand votes to the anti-Tammany State ticket. Whether it will be worth an election to Mr. Morrissoy is not yet quite clear, but it is interesting to hear as one of the matter-of-fact news items of the day that the Republicans are all expected to vote for Mr. Morrissey.

> > PERSONAL.

Vice-President Wilson was in this city yeserday, on his way from Boston to Washington Mr. Alma Tadema, the London artist, ac-

ompanied by his wife, has started on a long tour of Dean Stanley is preparing for publication the hird series of his " Lectures on the History of the Jewish

Senator Booth of California has had an enusiastic public reception at his old home in Sale Mr. Chichkine, the Russian Minister to this

ountry, arrived in this city yesterday, with his family, om Europe. The Mayor of Omaha (Neb.) has sent a barrel of choice Nebraska apples as a present to Mrs. Sar-toris, daughter of President Grant.

M. Rameau, uncle of the Deputy for the Seine-ct-Oise, has given \$80,000 to the town of Lille for the erection of a flue art museum.

Prof. Proctor began his series of astronomical

ctures in Boston on Wednesday evening with his old seture on the Transits of Venus. The Sage of Concord is spoken of by a learned

thicago paper as "Mr. R. W. Emerson, an accomplished seturer and reformer." Such is fame.

Mr. Robert Lowe and Mr. Thomas Carlyle aving declined to be candidates for the Lord Rectorship (Aberdeen University, Mr. Grant Duff will probably be

Gen. Joseph Hooker, who for the past year or more has been a resident at Garden City, on Long Island, has started for the Het Springs of Virginia, where

Queen Victoria has placed \$1,000 in the hands of the Princess Louisa to be distributed among the work-men in the employ of the Duke of Argyli for their extra labor during the visit of Her Majesty to Inverary.

The monument to Edgar Allan Poe in Westminster churchyard, Baltimore, will probably be uu, railed about Nov. 4. The delay has been caused by the desire to obtain a more prominent location than that in which Poe's remains now repose.

Some hitherto unmentioned letters of Galilee have been discovered in the Milanese State archives. They relate specially to negotiations pending between himself and the Spanish Government for the adoption by Spanish seamen of his system of employing geographical latitudes as a guide to navigation.

Prof. Brown of Syracuse University doesn't ke much stock in the supposed bones of a masted found at Center Lisle. He says the size of the bones does not correspond with the reports, and he suspects tory belong to domesticated animals of a much later epoca than that of the mastedom.

The Pope had an interview recently with a